

PHOTO BY PORTIA HARRIS



## COALITION TARGETS SLUMLORDS AND INSPECTORS

### HOUSING GROUPS FOCUS ATTACK ON TOOTHLESS ENFORCEMENT LAWS

by Victor Miller

It's a scene highly charged with emotion in front of 3317 Mission Street as single mother Aan Marie Dodier tells assembled journalists that she and her one year old son Randy live in an apartment that has been without heat for two months. Off to one side, building owner Adib Khouri hotly denies anything is wrong with his 18 unit building and denounces the press conference called by the Coalition for Code Enforcement (CCE), composed of 8 non profit and tenant organizations.

Coalition member Randy Shaw, executive director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, is doing some denouncing of his own as he tells reporters that Larry Litchfield, Superintendent of the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) has destroyed code enforcement in the City.

On this chilly morning, four days before Christmas, the CCE has fired the opening shot in what is intended as a year long campaign against slumlords and the City agency coalition members say has created a climate in which these slumlords thrive - the BBI.

3317 Mission would seem to be a strong

case in point regarding the BBI's ineffectiveness in enforcing City codes. Mr. Khouri's claim that his building is just fine and he should be notified before City inspections does not jibe with documents provided by the Coalition. A letter of July 17, 1978 from building tenants to Khouri requests him to provide a resident manager as is required by law in buildings with this many units. A BBI notice dated December 20, 1983 and another on September 20, 1984 order Khouri to do the same thing.

At the press conference, Khouri claimed he did indeed have a manager although he was unable to produce him or remember his name "because it's a Spanish name," Khouri said. According to Peter Burns, head of the Housing Inspections Division of BBI, the 1983 portion of the file on 3317 Mission was lost and

the action on the complaint, therefore, was not followed up on.

Without a resident manager, the building has been the scene of continuing mini-crime waves. According to tenants, a gang of teens and post-teens used the apartment house as a base for drug dealing and prostitution, threatening tenants, slitting the tires on their cars, urinating and defecating in the common area.

A Community Police Officer Program team and tenant organizations managed to turn things around and force Khouri to make security improvements. Nonetheless, things have been tough. Police were called to the building about once a week in 1992. The body of a homicide victim was not removed from the apartment where the murder occurred

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## A LOOK BACK AT 1992

by Brian Doohan

In last year's first issue, the News predicted "1992 will be intense" - a statement you could have taken to the bank.

Four different Police Chiefs, three Mission Station Captains, three of four new School Board members, two new Supervisors. What seems like dozens of community and social service groups noisily competing for turf and money. A four way land rush for the Northeast Mission. The Rodney King riots, the strange Hongisto imperium and the blizzard of Fidel Castro flyers that sent San Francisco's only Latino Supervisor packing. Finally, a national election in which twelve years of imperial smugness was overthrown by an obscure, Southern, Trilateralist Governor who has named former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros as Secretary of the Housing & Urban Development with S.F. Su-

pervisor Roberta Achtenberg apparently in line for an Undersecretary position there.

Of course there was some semblance of stability. Poverty, crime, crumbling buildings, dirty streets, late MUNI buses... plenty of things to set your watch by. Diversions - like Carnaval... and perversions - like crack cocaine.

Nobody would say that 1993 won't also be intense. But those who can't live anywhere but in the Mission won't.

As is our practice, an update of 1992's top stories revealed the following developments:

### THE MISSION'S ECONOMY AND ZONING

While local election results leave the Mission without representation, the appoint-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Ann Marie Dodier (L) at the December 21st code enforcement press conference

Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona



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## PALESTINE MURAL VANDALIZED AGAIN



Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona

The first mural in the U.S. to depict themes of the peoples of Palestine was the subject of a second attack of vandalism in the early morning hours of December 22nd. The mural on the 21st St. side of Mike's Grocery Store at 21st and Mission was splattered with paint in the exact same manner of the previous July 5th attack which targeted the figure of an older Jewish woman holding a tablet that reads "End the Occupation".

Store owner Mustafa Kurd said he observed two white males, 30-35 years old, throw something at the building. Kurd, who was a block away from the mural, ran toward it as the two men got into what he described as a late model Thunderbird or Buick occupied by two other men.

The mural is the work of six Jewish

American women called "Break the Silence" who toured the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank in 1989, working with Palestinians there to create six murals. The figure defaced in the mural is one of the Women in Black, an organization of Jewish women who, dressed in black, gather throughout Israel holding signs such as are in the mural. The woman actually pictured is an Auschwitz survivor.

"We chose to honor her as a way to remember that 'Never Again!' must mean 'Never Again' to anyone, anywhere," Break the Silence member Beth Sauerhaft told the News at the September 1991 dedication ceremony.

Plans to restore the mural are already underway. If you would like to help in any way, call Break the Silence at (510) 540-0161.

## LEGAL RENT RAISE LOWERED TO 1.6%

### NO MORE 4% RENT INCREASES!

As of December 8, 1992, the annual allowable rent increase for units covered by the Rent Control ordinance will be 1.6%. After March 1, 1993, the allowable rent increase should drop to about 1.3%.

This change comes in response to the passage of Proposition H, which received voter approval in the November local elections. This initiative was placed on the ballot by San Franciscans for Fair Rents, a coalition of various housing groups which included the Saint Peter's Housing Committee in the Mission District, the Housing Committee at Old

Saint Mary's, the San Francisco Tenants' Union, the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, and the Community Tenants' Association in Chinatown.

Before this change, the landlord was entitled to a rent increase equal to 60% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) but no less than 4%. This new law eliminates the 4% minimum and bases annual rent increases solely on 60% of the CPI.

Procedural information may be obtained by calling the S.F. Rent Board at 621-RENT. Tenants may contact the Tenants' Union at 282-6622 or, for assistance in Spanish, the St. Peter's Housing Committee at 282-8877.

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# LOOKING OUT FOR LEXINGTON

by Tara Kramer

When the riffraff moved in last August, the neighborhood just moved closer together, revitalizing their dormant community based patrol program called the Lexington Lookouts. Still going strong in December, the 40 member civilian crime prevention organization is now reaching out to the area surrounding their single block perimeter on Lexington between 20th and 21st streets. With the help of the Guardian Angels, the organization aims to stop carjacking in their immediate area where three have occurred in the past four months.

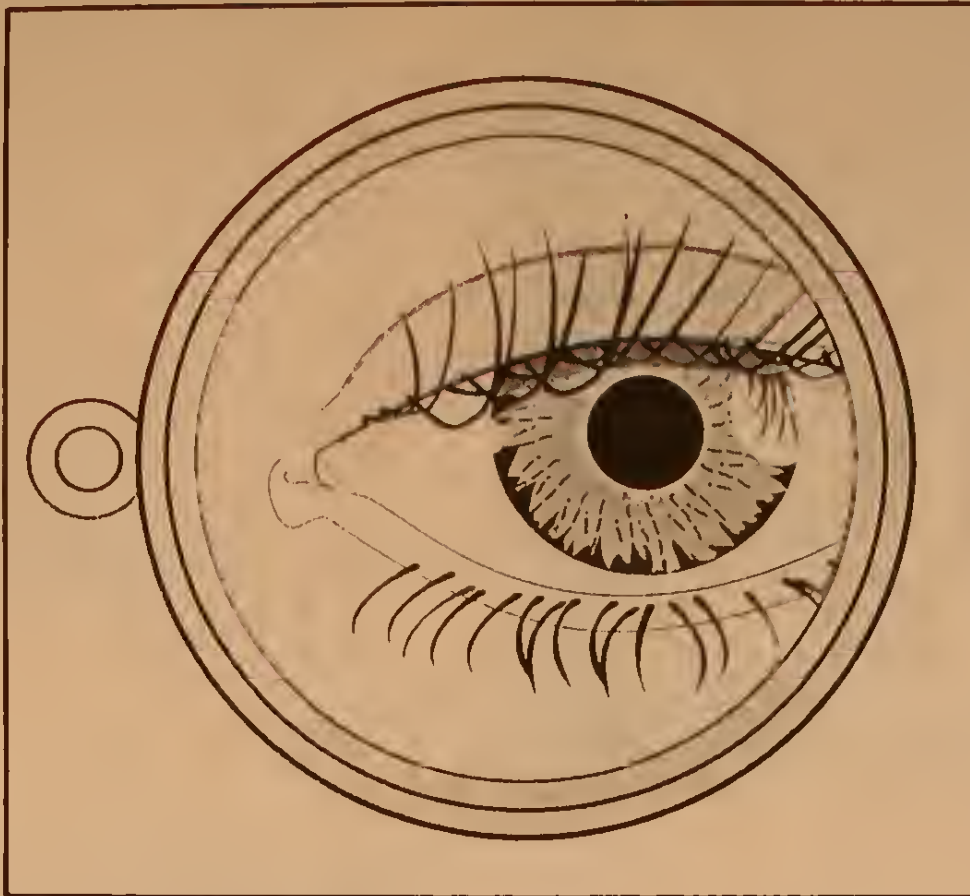
The Lexington Lookouts conduct regular area patrols and pass out leaflets with "Tips to Avoid Becoming a Victim of (Carjacking)" at nearby intersections where carjackings have occurred.

"Patrols provide a visual deterrent to crime in a neighborhood," said Chris Ford, a Guardian Angel who helped organize community trainings with the Lookouts. The Lookouts wear distinctive fluorescent orange baseball caps and identifying sweatshirts they printed themselves. Houses up and down the block have photocopied paper sheets in their windows, reading "We support the Lexington Lookouts."

Ford said crime could not flourish in areas where criminals knew the residents were consciously witnessing their activities. "Patrol groups stand around and create a difficult atmosphere to conduct criminal activity."

Mission Station Captain George Kowalski, while saying he was new to the area and still unfamiliar with the Lookouts, comments "The Police Department has encouraged neighborhood watches for 20 years, with block captains and telephone networks between neighbors." Of the Lookouts, he said "More power to them. Instead of staying in their houses making observations, they're out on the streets making observations."

Lexington Lookout Lisa Fromer, a block



resident, said the neighborhood patrol has made a great difference in the quality of life for its residents. "It's really effective," she said. Before the group got together in September, "There was a real necessity for unity among block residents. The triggering factor was escalating crime and one disruptive household where there was a lot of noise because of (drug) dealing and fencing. It dawned on us that we were suffering major sleep deprivation."

"They called us three and a half months ago based on the problems on the block with guys selling stolen cars and dealing," said Ford, referring to the Guardian Angels' training program. "When I first got there," he recalled, "there were 25 or 30 people blocking

the street with their stereos cranked up at 1 AM."

"We were not going to stay behind closed doors," said Fromer. "We had a right to live in a neighborhood where we didn't feel afraid."

Fromer said the Lookouts contacted the Angels for crime prevention training "after hearing they were helping Dolores Park residents with good results".

Lexington Lookouts walk in pairs down their street at night according to an organized schedule and hold block meetings. They also become friends.

"We're working people," said Fromer. "There's a real sort of unity and pleasure in getting to know one another. We learn what

people did and what the problems were. It's a good feeling in an urban situation for people to know and like each other and work together."

Capt. Kowalski concurs. "A lot of times in big cities people don't know their neighbors. But if they get to know each other and network, it is a preventive measure."

The Lookouts even had a block party in October, said Fromer.

"We gave food and stuff," said Carlos Barrios, a manager at nearby La Rondalla restaurant, who said he was happy with the reduction of crime since the Lookouts organized.

Resident Rubin Treje, who lives on the corner of 20th and Lexington agreed. "With the presence of these guys, everyone is now feeling safer. Old people can go to the store and do shopping at night."

But the program is not without risk

"We've had eggs thrown at us at one point, bottles thrown," said Fromer. Asked if it discouraged the patrols, Fromer said no.

"When you feel threatened, that's when you can no longer stand still."

Fromer said crime had been so serious before the patrolling began, that "We'd seen guns, we'd been threatened with guns."

Kowalski said, "If they patrol on foot, they should be careful about stopping people in criminality and don't get involved in confrontations."

Fromer said Lookouts had no such intention. "From neighbors, we've gotten practically nothing but good comments."

As demand for police services increase in the Mission in an era of dwindling resources, creative grassroots solutions such as the Lexington Lookouts may be the way to safer local streets.

"They're doing a heck of a public service," said Kowalski.





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# HARD TIMES FOR DAY LABORERS

by Mike Cesar

They waited in the dark outside the door of the Shelter at St. Peter's Church, wondering whether they would have to sleep in the rain tonight, or get a warm meal and lay down in a bed. Most of the several dozen men were Hispanic, and all were day laborers, when they could find work. Finally, the door opened and, two by two, the shelter's directors let in those men who had the required pass. The rest waited nervously. Would they have to sneak into an empty building? Fortunately, there was enough room for everyone tonight, but it had been a close call.

El Comité de Trabajadores Generales was formed to assist these men who are struggling with an undependable income in an unfamiliar nation.

I talked to Jose Samperio, the Comité's director, in his dark, cluttered office on 24th Street. The Comité, he told me, is different from other service organizations because it is staffed and directed by day laborers themselves. This both gives the workers a sense of power, and also makes it more comfortable for other day laborers to come in for advice. Though it has had to temporarily suspend its operations this month because of money problems (Samperio is a volunteer), the Comité ordinarily offers a wide range of services, including referrals for legal and medical assistance, advice on housing and employment problems and English classes.

Some of the work problems which many day laborers have to deal with, according to Samperio, are dangerous working conditions and being shortchanged of pay. This is partially because there are employers who assume that all Hispanic laborers are illegal aliens and cannot defend their rights.

The Comité was established by Jose Medina of the Instituto Laboral de la Raza, which provides legal assistance to workers in disputes with their employers. For its first two

years, the Comité operated out of the Instituto's offices. Medina says that his purpose was to create a legal entity to represent day laborers, many of whom do not have legal residency status. He agrees that some employers think that Hispanic workers are easy to abuse, and says that Mayan Indians are particularly frequent targets of exploitation because they have a reputation for being passive.

Yet, as critical as possessing a legal recourse certainly is, when I spoke with day laborers, employment troubles were not the first thing on their minds. One did tell me that he once was sent home after two hours of work with only three dollars, and others complained of harsh bosses, but those stories seemed to be the exception rather than the rule. The laborers told me that most of their employers were fair - the problem was having too few of them.

The compound effects of the recession and winter weather have created a painful work shortage for day laborers, who have absolutely no job security. At the end of one rainy week, I asked a group of ten men waiting at Mission and Army streets how many of them had worked in the past seven days. None responded. How about the previous week? One of them had worked two days. On an average winter day about five of the hundred men who arrive at the corner at six in the morning find work.

English ability would appear to be the surest route to better and more dependable work in the United States, and The Comité and several other agencies in the Mission provide free English instruction. I wondered why so few of these laborers, even those who have lived in the United States for years, have learned the language. The cause is not lack of desire or opportunity. All of the men who I talked with said that they wanted to learn English, and they told me about free schools nearby. But, when I asked which of them had actually attended classes, only one man said

Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona



BECOMING A LOCAL LANDMARK; Day Laborers at Army and Valencia.

that he had - and only a single time.

According to Jose Medina, laborers do not feel a need for English because Spanish is sufficient for day-to-day functioning in the Hispanic community. "I once traveled the length of California, without needing a word of English," he says. Also, many of the laborers received poor educations in their native countries, and cannot even read or write in their own languages, making learning a new one very difficult.

According to Samperio, another part of the reason is the lack of predictability in the immigrants' lives. As one man from El Salvador expressed it to me, "why should I learn English? The INS is just going to send me back to my country, anyway." (Yet, back

home, being able to teach English would be a marketable skill.) "Also, culturally," says Samperio, "it may be difficult for an immigrant to enter a school setting in a new country."

Perhaps this is the kind of role in which the 'Comité' can be very effective, since it is run by day laborers, and so other day laborers feel more comfortable coming to it for assistance.

Samperio's other goals for the Comité include finding a hall where laborers can wait for employers out of the rain, and setting up low-cost cooperative housing.

But, all of these plans hinge upon obtaining volunteer assistance and funding.

Ah, the tune of the times.



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## SLUMLORDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for a period of four days in July. Khouri thrif- tily cleaned rather than replaced the blood stained carpet in the unit but thoughtfully placed a sign on the door - "Danger, Slippery Floor".

On August 13, 1991, BBI's inspectors cited 3317 Mission for over 70 housing code violations; many of them dealing with leaking plumbing, defective, leaking ceilings and non-functioning stoves. Many of these violations remained unabated when the News toured the building in mid-December, 1992. Peter Burns said that, although that particular part of the file wasn't lost, the inspector in charge had retired.

Evidently, if a slumlord can drag his case on until the inspector retires or dies, he's off the hook. Given the dilatoriness of the BBI in code enforcement, this would appear to be a viable strategy for the unrepentant offender.

Failure to provide adequate heat has been a code violation that the BBI supposedly takes more seriously than most, but the BBI's August, 1991 inspection report cited Khouri for 6 heatless units at 3317 Mission. Sixteen months later, there was no evidence that anything at all had been done to correct the problem.

For Ann Marie Dodier, the lack of heat in her \$650 a month apartment is a very serious issue. Dodier's one year old son already has anemia due to lead toxicity. Dodier says health workers told her a cold environment is detrimental to the child's recovery, but Khouri told her if she didn't like the apartment' live elsewhere.

Dodier, a recent arrival from Cuba, says she, along with her son, was given a complete battery of health tests as part of the immigration process. No lead poisoning in her child was detected. Subsequently she has lived in only two locations - 3317 Mission and an apartment complex at 16th and Market also owned by Adib Khouri (who is owner or part owner of over 20 San Francisco buildings). Dodier believes her son contracted lead poisoning in the Market and Valencia building.

Cases such as 3317 Mission Street have been exposed in this paper and elsewhere over the past 20 years. The Gariland Apartments that formerly occupied the southeast corner of 16th and Valencia were cited for 38 code violations in 1972. The building was destroyed in an arson fire in December, 1975, with the violations still uncorrected.

A set of flats at 2280 Mission had dozens of uncorrected life threatening hazards for over five years (1985-1991) before the owner complied. In July, 1991, the News published a list of 100 Mission buildings referred to the Code Enforcement Division of BBI (in layman's terms, condemned properties). Nearly 60 of these had been on the books for two years or longer.

Tenderloin Housing Clinic Director Shaw maintains the BBI backlog is now more than 2,000 buildings citywide. He believes that current Superintendent Litchfield is refusing to enforce the housing code. "What he's done is a tragedy. Litchfield has removed staffing from code enforcement and hired three \$84,000 a year administrative assistants," Shaw declared.

BBI spokespersons denied the charges. Litchfield, who was on vacation at press time, could not be contacted for comment.

### THE BUREAU

The BBI has always contended horror shows such as 3317 Mission Street are aberrations in a functioning system of code enforcement. The Coalition for Code Enforcement contends such cases demonstrate the system has collapsed. One of the biggest barriers to resolving this issue has been the BBI itself. Each time in the last decade that attempts have been made to access the effectiveness of the BBI, public records have been closed off.

The list of condemned buildings which the News obtained from the BBI in 1991 was made available only after years of hassling with the BBI bureaucrats and the City Attorney's office. In 1989 the list was declared confidential - for the ostensible



## LOOK OUT BELOW!

One third of the ceiling in the bedroom of this apartment at 1286 South Van Ness collapsed nearly three months ago. The rest could come down at any time. BBI cited owner George Poon on October 2nd, but Poon has told the tenants he has no money to make repairs. When the NEWS stopped by to take this photo, Poon was around the corner supervising a crew of workers in the remodeling of his 24th Street restaurant Las Guitares. Leaks that flooded out a residential unit above the restaurant, meanwhile, go unattended. Poon is an owner who knows BBI enforcement procedures have no teeth. In the past he failed to comply with BBI orders to make repairs at his 2745 Mission Street property for two years. Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona

reason of protecting the reputations of the condemned building owners - and the News was denied access despite a legal action in 1983 by the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation in which such lists were declared public record.

Once the list of buildings is obtained, re-searches have still had to contend with the notorious "rule of three" when trying to examine the files of buildings on the condemned list. It is the BBI's policy to make only three files available per person per day. The only useful purpose this policy has is to frustrate any attempts to review the BBI's track record in code enforcement.

If code enforcement laws have no teeth and owners know that they can cause years of delays, funds usually expended on the upkeep of properties can be invested elsewhere. A classic slumlord modus operandi is to invest their money in the purchase of more rundown properties - hence the code enforcement process intended to correct slumlording when it fails to function actually serves to underwrite the costs of expanding squalor and misery.

For these reasons the BBI, as much as any slumlord, has become the target of the Coalition for Code Enforcement.

### THE COALITION

The CCE is composed of the Asian Law Caucus, Old St. Mary's Housing Committee, North of Market Planning Coalition, the San Francisco Tenants' Union, Community Tenants' Association, the S.F. Tenants' Union, Tenderloin Housing Clinic, Mission Housing Development Corporation and the St. Peter's Housing Committee.

Neli Palma, one of the two paid staff members of St. Peter's Housing Committee along with co-worker Leonore Solorzano, must contend with the 4,000 requests for help received by St. Peter's from mostly Spanish-speaking Mission District tenants annually. Organizing tenants such as Palma and Solorzano did at 3317 Mission is something that has to occur after the work day is over.

Despite St. Peter's limited staff and resources (in comparison to BBI) they did not lose their copies of public records on 3317 Mission nor misplace them following personnel changeover.

Palma says the code enforcement drive is a natural next step following the housing and tenant movement's electoral struggles over the rent control law of the last few years. According to Palma a series of neighborhood conventions focusing on the 1992 rent control ballot initiative (which became Proposition H and was passed in November) revealed that, while rent control was the number one tenant issue citywide,

building maintenance and repair was second overall and the area of greatest importance to the Mission.

Palma sees Coalition as a return to a more grassroots organizing drive than was the case during the electoral and legislative campaigns centering on rent control, especially in the Mission. "Electoral politics is not where we can empower the population of Spanish-speaking recent immigrants we serve," said Palma. A six month to one year campaign will lead to an accountability session with the Superintendent of BBI and tenants from buildings where code enforcement had failed.

Palma views this as a welcome change of direction that will benefit Latino tenants, adding that "for our community, we must bring people into the process in a way that allows them to organize an event or an action around what directly concerns them and, therefore, is empowering."

The New Mission News will provide updates throughout 1993 of the CCE's battles with slumlords and the BBI.

(The bureaucracies are really the rule by nobody. And this nobody is not a benevolent nobody. We cannot hold anybody responsible for what happens because there is really no author of deeds and events. It is really frightening.

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# GOOD SAMARITAN'S NEW LOOK

by Robin Snyderman

It is common knowledge that the Mission District has been a gateway to the City for immigrants from throughout the world, and that the resulting diversity of our community may be both its greatest strength as well as its greatest challenge.

It is also understood that accommodating the dreams and demands of our complex citizenry requires common sense, creative hospitality and tremendous savvy. Although no precise recipe for multi-cultural community development has been documented, trial and error and years of effort have enabled many organizations and individuals in the Mission to successfully meet the challenge.

Two local non-profit organizations, each steeped in Mission District history, have recently come together to work on a project, pool their resources and demonstrate their expertise.

In the Fall of 1993, the Good Samaritan Inc. and Mission Housing Development Corporation will begin constructing a family resource center for recent immigrants and a housing community for 20 low-income families.

From 1894 until 1990, a Good Samaritan Community Center (GSCC) served the Mission District at 1290-1294 Potrero, as a settlement house for recent immigrants and refugees. Its primary purpose was to help the new families stabilize, access needed services and support, and develop economic self-sufficiency.

As the GSCC building aged and the services increased, the existing facility became less and less operative. In 1989, the centurion GSCC housed 22 programs for thousands of families, including ESL classes, bilingual pre-school programs, legal counseling, health services and more. The Loma Prieta earthquake finally rendered the building



Artists' conception of the finished development

dysfunctional in 1989.

Committed to continuing their work and recognizing that funding for affordable housing is extremely limited, board members from Good Samaritan approached Mission Housing Development Corporation (MHDC) for assistance in re-developing the Potrero Avenue site. They knew that MHDC's twenty-one year track record would greatly increase both their competitiveness and their capacity.

Since its inception in 1971, a product of the Mission Coalition Organization of the 1960's and 70's, MHDC has been dedicated to creating, preserving and managing affordable living accommodations for low-income residents, and promoting the Mission's health through community development. It has created stable and decent housing for seniors, families, individuals recovering from substance abuse, formerly homeless and mentally ill adults. Its community development department provides technical support to numerous neighborhood improvement endeavors, but perhaps MHDC's most enduring and palpable community efforts are those which focus on the hundreds of families dwelling in its own buildings.

Although some Mission citizens associate low-income housing with crime and blight, the facts surrounding private non-profit developments are actually quite contrary to this image. Proper management and on-site community development in one building can serve to

benefit the quality of life for residents of an entire neighborhood. The Mission District is a low-income community. Affordable, stable housing is accordingly a powerful tool in the revitalization of the area.

Individuals paying only one third of their income on rent are more capable of participating in the community as consumers, activists and/or good samaritans than their many neighbors who are struggling to pay market-rate rent to absentee landlords.

Whether a tribal village or a wealthy suburb, each community must determine and implement accessible resources and routines that are relevant and empowering for its own people.

The Good Samaritan Family Resource Center will offer a variety of quality family support services, educational programs, child-care, counseling and informative services to the recently arrived immigrants and refugees served. The target population will come from the Mission District (including inner and outer Mission and Bernal Heights), primarily Latino people, regardless of their legal status.

The entire facility will comprise the 13,000 square foot family resource center and 20 affordable apartments for families earning no more than 50% of the area median income (approximately \$25,000 for a family of four). The majority of the units will have three or four bedrooms, with monthly rents ranging from \$250 for a 2-bedroom units

to \$700 for a 4-bedroom unit.

Both the housing and the resource center will be four-stories in height, with 27 spaces of underground parking. To create a buffer between the development and the residences along Hampshire street, the new construction will be roughly 25 feet from the rear property line. Well-designed and landscaped open space will provide ample play areas for the many children expected to live in this development.

MHDC's housing management subsidiary, Caritas Management Corporation, hires and supervises resident managers to work with and serve the families dwelling in MHDC buildings. Eligibility for low-income housing is strictly mandated by State and Federal low-income housing guidelines, but notification of availability is well publicized in advance.

"Home" and "Community" may be ancient bedfellows, but today's urban economy requires us to resurrect the memory of their partnership with savvy and creativity. The Good Samaritan Family Resource Center and Housing, a joint venture between Mission Housing Development Corporation and the Good Samaritan Inc. will be a welcome and welcoming Mission District neighbor.

*Robin Snyderman is currently a Community Development Specialist at Mission Housing Development Corporation, and previously worked on-site at MHDC's two residential hotels.*

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# THE RESTORATION OF A MURALIST

by Gary Byrd

Some alcoholics have bizarre stories of how things "used to be", others tell tales of the way things "could have been" and still others let the facts speak for themselves.

In the early 1960s, Jesus "Chuy" Campusano organized unions, gave speeches and directed boycotts in support of the Central Valley farm workers led by Caesar Chavez.

He also developed as an artist during this time, designing pamphlets, flyers and posters for the national movement. He saw art as a magnet, drawing people of all cultures to the Chicano movement.

Art can be a catalyst in the Chicano community.

In 1972, Campusano received a scholarship to study print-making and painting at the San Francisco Art Institute. Living in the Mission most of his life, Campusano designed his curriculum around Mission murals. In cooperation with other Latinos he painted several Mission murals. "When we work together we empower the Latino community," says Campusano.

Campusano's prestige as a muralist was mounting in 1974 when executives at the Bank of America were seeking a muralist to paint the interior of their branch at 23rd and Mission.

The bank executives liked Campusano's work, but were hesitant to give the project to an art student; Campusano looked to Mission resident Emmy Lou Packard for solutions. Campusano approached Packard, long time friend of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, and asked her to work with him on the mural. Packard agreed. She spoke with the bank's top brass and convinced them that the mural would be a success. Packard handled the administrative end of the project and left designing the mural to Campusano. This was the beginning of a relationship spanning two decades.

The Bank of America mural launched

Campusano into the international spectrum. A Mexican congresswoman came to San Francisco and offered him a scholarship to study public art at the Academy of San Carlos. He accepted.

While in Mexico Campusano worked in the studios of internationally prominent muralists and painters. He broadened his understanding of frescoes and murals and learned the art of securing public projects and corporate commissions.

Painting the blatant oppression of the Latino people (Campusano calls these paintings "chains and flames") was no longer his only subject. There were other subjects, equally important.

Shortly after his return to the U.S., Campusano received a fresco commission from the M.H. DeYoung Museum. Campusano's talents were enhanced by working with plasterer Stephen Dimitroff; the plasterer worked with Diego Rivera on several frescoes. After completion, the fresco dominated the entrance of the Mexican Museum with the painting's enormous jaguar and warrior bird looming.

Most controversial of all his murals was the Lilla Ann Mural. It took two years of lobbying before City Hall commissioned Campusano to do the piece at 17th Street and Harrison. The images are bold and demand attention which is one of the reasons the debate over its avant garde style lingers five years later. His career was blooming, but Campusano admits his personal life was disintegrating because of alcohol.

Campusano had been drinking and doing "light" drugs since he was a teenager. Like many people he drank, but it was under control. Things changed.

In the late '80s he gave money back to a local developer who commissioned a mural, because he wasn't sober long enough to complete it.

One time he blacked out for three days and awoke with blood on his shirt and a



Muralist CHUY CAMPUSANO; photo by Najib Joe Hakim

shiner. His comfortable apartment was hardly used because he often slept in the streets with the winos. As he walked 16th Street he saw crime, lust and scum and it was attractive, Campusano says. He was afraid to stop drinking, afraid of the shakes, afraid of the pain.

After three failed visits to short term alcohol clinics he wanted no more. "I was going to die," says Campusano. "I had to surrender."

Few people supported him through his trek to sobriety; one was Emmy Lou Packard.

While in one detox program, Packard wrote letters to him describing the events of the Mission's art community. Chuy went through a rough stretch, but now he's doing well, Packard says.

"She wasn't there to yell at me," says Campusano, "she was just there."

Campusano walked through the doors of the Mission's chapter of Walden House 1885 Mission) over a year ago and hasn't drank since. At Walden House the staff and the residents are at various stages of controlling their chemical dependency. Staff members hold individual and group discussions, in "pond settings," allowing residents to air their personal problems. Bringing hidden problems out into the open helps people control their addictions, says Campusano. "I have been through a change within."

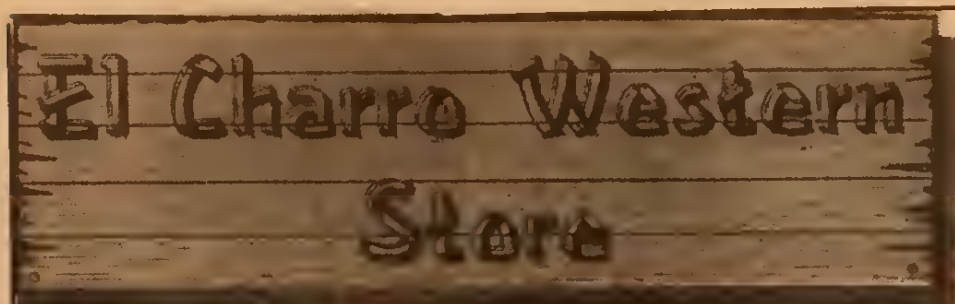
Campusano is no longer a resident at Walden House. He shares an apartment with other ex-residents, but spends much time at Walden House because of his new position as its art director.

He predicts that the in-house artists will soon be getting well deserved recognition.

As art director Campusano oversees a screen printing shop, leased by Walden House, in the south of Market area. He sees the workshop as a vocational training center for residents of Walden House and a viable force in the screen-printing industry. Campusano's team will have four community outreach posters made by mid January and screened t-shirts are soon to follow.

Posters and t-shirts are only the beginning. In the near future Walden House artists will be working on commissioned murals in the private sector, forecasts Campusano. We have the artists needed to accomplish large-scale projects, he adds.

"Too many Latinos believe that the more tequila you drink the more of a man you are," says Campusano. "Walden House is a place Raza people can go."



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# mission broadsider

by andy solow

## MISSION POLICE STATION - OVERWORKED AND UNDERSTAFFED

**A**re we ever going to get back some of the experienced police officers that were conscripted for duty on the Tenderloin Task Force??? We are still 45 officers short at Mission Station.

According to Sgt. Steve Johnson, in spite of the fact that S.F. General Hospital has its own private police force, the Hospital still calls Mission Station over 750 times a year. "They are using our officers to do their police reports and transport their prisoners even though they have their own officers," says Sgt. Johnson. Maybe the S.F. General Police Officers should be transferred to Mission Station along with their budget.

According to several sources in the S.F.P.D., there are at least one hundred Police officers who are permanently partially disabled who are still on active duty even though they will never be able to go back out on the street. At least six of these officers are on loan to the City Attorney's office and spend their time attending depositions.

Wouldn't it be better for all concerned if these officers were permanently retired from the Police Department, retrained and replaced with officers who are physically able to perform active duty Police work?

## PARK & WRECKAGE II BUREAUCRACY, BLUR-OCRACY OR BOOBOCRACY?

Since January 1991, the S.F. Recreation and Parks Dept. has received at least fourteen

written communications on the subject of security and supervision at Jose Coronado Playground including three letters from the S.F. Board of Supervisors, petitions and letters signed by over 200 residents, and hundreds of telephone complaints.

The requests for supervision, improved lighting, new fencing and locks and fence repairs have been complied with; but the issue of security at the Playground is still a bone of contention.

It seems that the Friends of Jose Coronado Playground (formerly Folsom) have been trying to get the S.F. Recreation & Parks Dept. to lock and unlock their neighborhood playground on a daily basis. The rationale of their request is to limit access to the playground to legitimate users and keep the people who urinate, defecate, vomit and leave broken glass and used hypodermic needles in the children's play area out.

Since this small area of the Mission generates at least one hundred requests for Police service per month, mostly for drunk and disorderly conduct and/or drug dealing at or near the Park, it seems glaringly obvious that the request to lock and unlock the Park is reasonable.

In her letters to the S.F. Board of Supervisors (September 19, 1991) the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission (March 4, 1992) and the Friends of Jose Coronado Playground (May 27, 1992), the General Manager of the S.F. Recreation and Parks Department, Mary Burns, agreed to accept the responsibility for locking and unlocking the Playground seven days a week including weekends, holidays and

rainy days.

However, incredible as it may seem, Jose Coronado Playground is still not being opened and closed on the schedule that Mary Burns committed to in writing. During the 45 day period from November 1, 1992 through December 15, 1992, Jose Coronado Playground was either not locked at night or was left locked during the day at least thirteen times, causing children and adults to climb over a twelve foot high fence to gain access to the Park. Playground Directors Carlos Gutierrez and Jose Guzman had a perfect record during this time period. All of the neglect occurred on weekends, holidays and rainy days when they were not on duty.

Exasperating? I wouldn't be surprised if the Friends of Jose Coronado Playground have already killed two or three good size trees writing about this subject. When asked why it seems to be so difficult to get the Park opened and closed, the S.F. Superintendent of Parks, Ron DeLeon, was shocked that his orders had not been complied with and he requested a calendar of all of the offending dates so that he would be able to take disciplinary action.

I firmly believe that Ms. Burns and her senior staff are committed to opening and closing the Playground as agreed; but in spite of their best efforts, the task of locking and unlocking two gates seems to be too difficult for their subordinates to perform.

If the City employees who are responsible for doing this simple job think that they can get away with ignoring the instructions of their superiors, they are mistaken. Even the Civil Service System doesn't protect incompetents and nonfeasants.

Stay tuned for Park & Wreckage III.

## RAP FIVE YEAR PLAN

Since it opened ten years ago, Mission Recreation Center has failed to serve the youth in this community. According to Mitchell Salazar, Executive Director of Real Alternatives Program (RAP), Mission Recreation Center is about to be transformed into a Multi-Service Teen Center.

Funded through Prop J Children's Initiative monies, the first phase of this five year project will consist of a collaboration between the S.F. Dept. of Recreation & Parks and: Horizons Unlimited, YWCA Mission Girls' Services, C.R.E.C.E., Instituto Familiar de la Raza and RAP. RAP will be the lead agency and facilitator for the process.

In the first year, the Teen Center will collectively case manage between 140 and 160 youth. RAP will try to help the community leverage the newly created teen center to solicit additional dollars through the San Francisco Foundation, Lifeline Initiative and the California Wellness Foundation so that the program can be expanded to additional sites.

RAP is also working with the Dept. of Health and the Youth Guidance Center (YGC) in the Robert Kennedy Memorial Youth Project (SF) to develop a five year proposal to deal with violence in the Mission as a health issue.

Hopefully, this project will channel the energy and child clients of all of these service providers into one combined program and we will finally see some kids at Mission Rec.

## DOLORES PARK SOCCER

On Tuesday, January 19, 1993 at 7 PM in Golden Gate Park at McLaren Lodge (Fell & Stanyan Streets), there will be a meeting of the Park and Open Space Citizens' Advisory Committee. Call 666-7080 to confirm the date.

The Committee will be taking public comment on the issue of whether or not to make minor modifications to Dolores Park for the purpose of creating a small recreational soccer field next to the tennis courts. The plans submitted by the Dolores Park Coalition and the Mission Youth Soccer Leagues would not significantly affect the existing physical geography of the Park.

This project would be inexpensive, could be implemented quickly, and would serve a tremendous number of children. Supporters of the Proposal include Mayor Frank Jordan, the San Francisco Police Commission (by unanimous vote), Chief of Police Anthony Ribera, School Board President Elect Angie Fa, the Dolores Park Coalition, Mission High School, Everett Middle School, Dolores School, St. Charles School and the Mission Youth Soccer League.

Please come and support this project. The yuppies got their tennis court. It is only fair that the three thousand kids from four neighborhood schools get a small recreational soccer field that will not significantly alter the existing physical geography or aesthetic appearance of the Park

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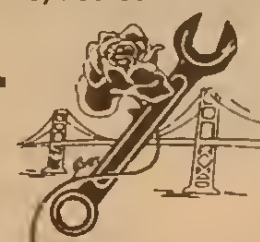
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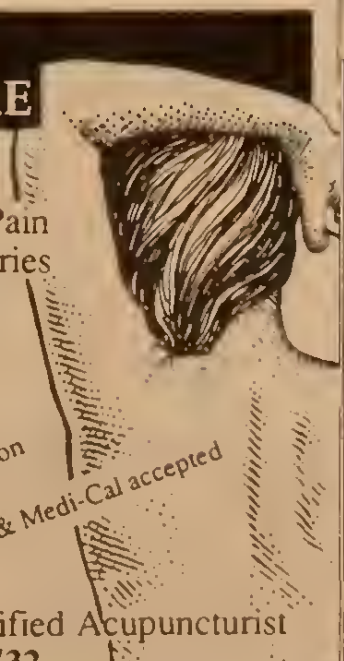
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# 1992

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment of Cisneros and (maybe) Achtenberg at HUD has some social service organizations all but dancing in the streets.

"The Mission could see Federal money within six months," predicts an exuberant Roberto Barragan of the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA).

MEDA is targeting four sites near 24th Street for business development loans, as well as lobbying for industrial zoning in the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ). But they are facing competition from artists, housing developers and the University of California.

Mission Planner Angelica Chiong is currently sorting out these different interest-group requests to prepare a report that will go to the City Planning Commission in the spring. "We're leaning towards a core business area," said Chiong who added that she is not ruling out housing around South Van Ness or Folsom Streets as well as in a site around 23rd and Harrison.

## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

As the News went to press, Mayor Jordan opened four new homeless shelters (one in the Mission), earning a grudging support of advocates who had criticized his Homeless Plan (News - July issue). A private shelter on 24th Street had a stormier birth, but should also become operable. And passage of the anti-panhandling Prop. J assures us all that beggars will no longer be seen in the Mission in 1993.

Beginning with the May issue, the News also covered the Tenants' Conventions that resulted in the drafting and passage of Proposition H, limiting rent increases. Despite the efforts of stooges, saboteurs and Leona Helmsley, despite the expected opposition of big business and media and the unexpected scorn of some liberal elements like the Weekly and Bay Guardian, Prop. H received 53% of the vote and the results will begin showing up in your wallets this year (see related notice, this issue).

## CRIME AND SAFETY

For a short time, a few Mission merchants and residents held the attention of the public and the media by holding up their tax payments to protest crime and shoddy services. The tax revolt (Dec.) was abandoned... ostensibly to give the new Police Chief and Captain time to get cracking... but its implications are clear. Unresponsive City government has been served with its wake-up call!

San Francisco shuffled through four Police Chiefs and the Mission went through three Captains in a year most law-abiding citizens are glad to see rung out and wrung out.

A few of the more visible hot spots - Dolores Park, Mission Playground, Bernal Dwellings, 24th Street and Mission Street - took turns as cops and robbers chased each other from site to site.

While the day to day conditions weren't as bad in Dolores Park as at the 16th & Mission BART Plaza, the firebombing of the home and day care center of a crime witness drew outrage and, for a while, massive police presence. "They cleaned the park out but within the last few days there has been an increase of people going back into the park to deal," says neighbor Eileen Gold, who added "it's not as bad as it was before."

Frank Morales who lives near the embattled Mission Playground suggested that a temporary decline in criminal activity was due to the cold weather as well as policies that have put more plainclothes officers on the street and more walk throughs and drive throughs in the parks. But budgetary conditions continue to impact - he notes a shortage of unmarked police cars. "Why the City doesn't use confiscated drug dealers' vehicles now being impounded?" he asks. Why indeed!

An increasing number of the perpetrators - and victims - were children. The most notable incident was the murder of 13 year old Bayron Alvarado (Feb. issue) whose killer

will go to trial this month.

A problem less dramatic than the gang killers and drug dealers but equally visible in the Mission is the ongoing issue of Day Laborers (Feb.), some of whom have been relocated to Franklin Park in order to ease the concerns of residents in areas of high concentration near paint and supply stores.

And a further, ongoing source of community division is the presence of illegal immigrants and the Sanctuary Ordinance (Aug.). Despite being watered down, it was used as an election issue to oust Sup. Gonzalez. More recently, State Sen. Quentin Kopp and State Attorney General Dan Lungren have been working to cut off criminal



1992 was the last hurrah for Supervisor JIM GONZALEZ who lost his bid for re-election to the S.F. Board of Supervisors, but he'll probably still play Santa to the 24th Street Christmas Parade. Photo by M.P.R. Howard

justice funds to San Francisco unless reports of "any suspected alien" are made to the Migra when arrested, instead of convicted.

"San Diego spends \$105 million to prosecute and incarcerate suspected illegal aliens," Kopp asserted in his December 18th Independent column, "and receives only \$60 million in taxes from them."

## YOUTH, ARTS AND RECREATION

1992 brought the first full year of Proposition J funding for youth (no, not panhandling proceeds but the previous year's Children's initiative monies). According to Mayor Jordan, \$3.1 million was granted to 40 community based organizations (124 had applied) with the largest allocations going to child care, health and job training. "An investment in our children is the best investment we can ever make," the Mayor said, "and the San Francisco Children's Amendment is a major step toward investing for the future of the children of this great city."

Coleman Advocates, a sponsor of Prop J, emphasized continual monitoring of the allocations. They are concerned that disabled and very young children are not included and that too much money is being spent on administration.

Ongoing midnight basketball programs sponsored by the Real Alternatives Program provide some alternative to gangs, but one program which applied for but did not receive Prop. J funding was the Youth Boxing Program (Nov.) at Precita Park. According to Director Sonny Marston, the program is embroiled in a dispute with its landlord over the space; failure to resolve or come up with funding would put a lot of kids back out on the street. "It'll be a bummer if they close it," Marston said.

The news is a little better on another front - lead poisoning. On December 23rd, Mayor Jordan signed legislation passed by the Board of Supervisors two days earlier which a spokesman for sponsor Kevin Shelley called a "first step" in attacking the problem. A community advisory committee is being set up to hold hearings on the problem - Mission parents and residents interested in serving should call 554-5184.

The June issue focused on the plight of Mission Theatres which are still at risk, according to Frances Philips of Intersection. "It's getting better and worse at the same time. The 'Lighting the Arts' program will improve

safety in the 16th Street, Mission and 24th Street area. But audiences are smaller - perhaps it's due to the recession, but the competition from Yerba Buena Center may be drawing patrons away." Certainly the presence of the latter big, safe (shall we say sterile?) complex will pose an attractive alternative for those seeking a night of unchallenging entertainment... the question for the 90s will be whether there remains enough of an audience willing to take personal risk to experience theatrical risk.

On a more felicitous note the Coro Hispano (Apr.) has recently received major media attention, Komotion has been benignly neglected by formerly aggressive permit

police and Carnaval 1993 shapes up to be the best yet. "The theme will be a tribute to Mother Earth," said promoter Roberto Hernandez of the Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA), "environmental groups will be participating in Earth Bloes and the 1993 Grand Marshal will be Eddie Palmieri." MECA's Cinco de Mayo will have Education as its theme for 1993.

Further, Jose Coronado Park was only a dream when covered at the beginning of the year, but the City's Parks and Recreation Commission, bowing to massive community pressure, approved the name change of the former Folsom Playground.

Finally, the short, strange impetum of Police Chief Hongisto provided the Mission with some much-needed comic relief before the Chief was sent on his way. Now a Safeway security officer, Hongisto could resurface if Safeway prexy and new Giants' owner Peter Magowan assigns his firm to Candlestick.

AND... in 1993...

The Giants who occupied so much of Mayor Jordan's attention in 1992, will probably be the subject of a November referendum to squelch their stadium deal - an election that will hinge on whether \$43 million man Barry Bonds hits .320 or .240.

Another Mission Summit Conference with a focus on youth issues is expected to convene in March which will, perhaps, either clarify or compound the Mission's relationship with its increasingly numerous civic organizations. MUNI will try to raise fares again.



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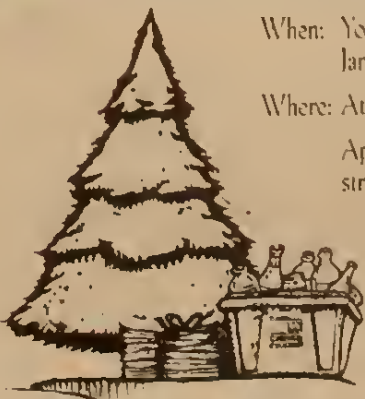
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by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

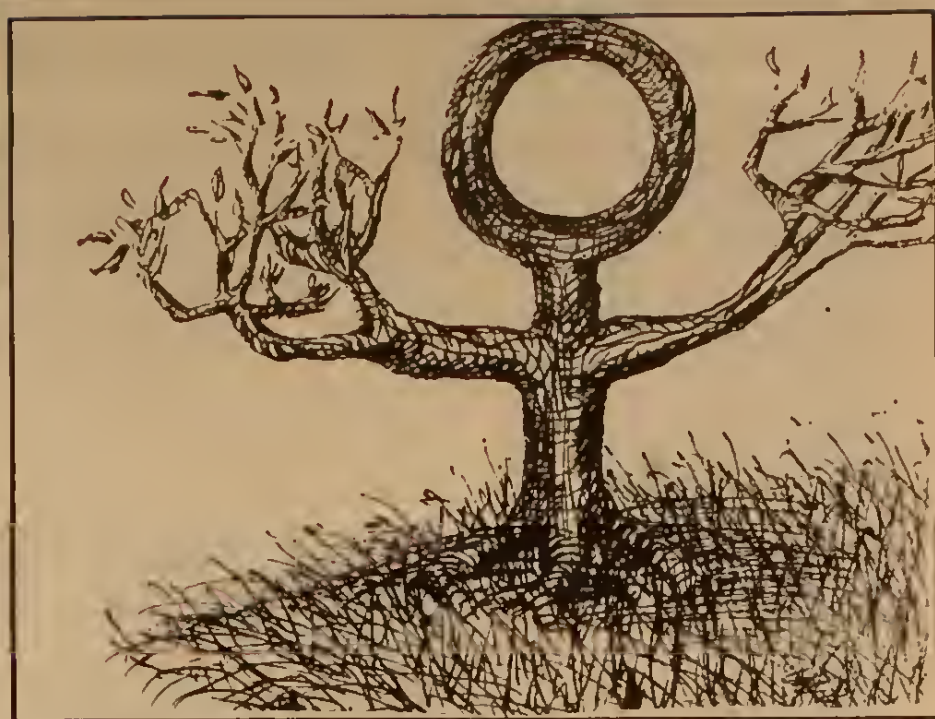
This was the year when ordinary women became radicalized by the issue of sexual harassment. Anita Hill, a conservative, has been metamorphized into a speaker who addresses issues of women in the Black community. This is a major turn around from the woman who suffered in silence in the days when she worked with Clarence Thomas. Now it seems we are willing to get to some bottom lines, find our voices. For a couple of decades we have focused on issues of rape and battering. We still have a long way to go, i.e. getting the courts to admit evidence of battering in cases where women kill their abusers. Yet now we are uncovering the root of the evil. The fundamental problem has always been the devaluation and humiliation of women, the male insistence that men may do with women as they would not dare with men. We are recovering from being subhuman, reclaiming ourselves as human beings.

This was the year when Barbra Streisand, the megastar recluse millionaire spoke out against the exclusion of lesbians and gay men

from basic human rights. She significantly veered from mainstream views. She was not raising money for AIDS. She was not humming the song of status quo. From Madonna we expect this kind outspokenness. We expect concern cloaked in empathy with AIDS victims. But Streisand's statement supporting a boycott of Colorado for taking the first step toward legalizing discrimination of gays, this is a special moment. Every drag queen who ever impersonated her can continue to do so with the smug attitude that they knew all along she is a unique friend.

This was another year of women being caretakers for victims of disease, famine, war, poverty. All the world's children are ours. The problems have been ours to solve, the messes ours to clean up. This was also a year again when 56,000 women died of breast cancer. It is still a year when animal shelters outnumber women's shelters by a ratio of four to one. We did make some progress in getting the medical establishment to recognize woman defined symptoms of AIDS after over a decade of focusing only on the loss of men.

This was the year when Martina Navratilova



said that if it had been her who had gotten AIDS instead of Magic Johnson, she would have been called a slut. This is the year when Magic Johnson agreed.

We still have no breakthroughs in the AIDS epidemic. This country still refuses to acknowledge that worldwide, AIDS is not a gay disease. It is not currently acknowledged that many of the people in Somali and throughout Africa are not dying so much of famine as they are of AIDS. This is a disturbing omission that covers an even more disturbing question: why is this country so invested in portraying AIDS as a gay disease, that the primary carriers and disseminators of the disease are men; not prostitutes, pregnant women or gays.


This is the year when California elected two women to the U.S. Senate. We still do not know what that means. I do hope that Barbara Boxer will make good on her promise to be an agitation to Jesse Helms. I want to see that smug misogynist, homophobic hate monger squirm and sweat from the heat.

This was the year of Fried Green Tomatoes

which showed us there is more to a lesbian relationship than orgasms; that these partnerships are at least as old and deep as the story of Ruth and Naomi. This is the year when two Academy Award winners acknowledged their same sex partners before a national audience. This was the year that Jodie Foster didn't come out. Maybe next year.

This was the year when I felt a wind stirring, rising. There is the promise of a storm that will bring a clearing of the hate, violence, depravation. This year has set the tone for this decade. The air will be filled with women's voices; among the many will stand Navratilova, Streisand, Hill and, yes, Madonna; and yes, you and I. Rights dignity, quality of life are the issues that will achieve new levels of understanding and manifestation.

The world is in turmoil now. The old ways are struggling for the last gasp. There will be ugliness. Yet, this decade is the turning point. The power of the Milsoviacs, Helmses, Schaflys, Dukes will put up a mighty fight, but for naught. It is up to us: speak up, wave goodbye, don't look back.



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## CRUCIAL EMPLOYMENT



Businessman MARK LAMMERS; photo by Najib Joe Hakim

by Gary Byrd

In San Francisco 28,000 people are HIV positive and 4,000 more have AIDS. The staggering health costs associated with HIV and AIDS force most to choose between working or living in the streets.

Anyone that has combed the newspapers for jobs knows that the job market is soft. If the applicant is HIV positive or has AIDS the market is constricted further. A potential employer must be willing to grant time off for doctor appointments and other pressing matters. In the later stages of AIDS, sitting for long periods of time becomes uncomfortable. These and other factors make finding employment difficult at best.

In 1989 Mark Lammers opened the doors of Strategic Communications in the Mission. Lammers assembled a network of talented, resolved professional men to ensure the success of his consulting and telemarketing research company. A former executive, a lawyer with an MBA and a high-tech software salesman are currently among the ranks. 95% of all employees are HIV positive or have AIDS.

Working with people that have incurable diseases "shifts priorities, small issues aren't very important and the needs of others are," Lammers said.

The company employs seven to twenty people, depending on the size of the project. Two shifts are available or the employee can work at home. Most work in the office because they like the atmosphere, said Lammers. Before and after work people gab and get to know each other or enjoy the antics of resident pets, one employee said. There is at least one dog and a couple of cats in constant need of affection.

However, when work begins, the crew focuses on the project at hand. Lammers' goal is to take only political polls and is lobbying for more political projects, but admits it now makes up only a third of the business.

Taken as a whole the business is doing well. Although the company is closely held, Lammers said revenue increased 25 percent in each of the first two years and, in 1992, it surpassed past growth.

Lammers' employment policy hasn't always boosted business. Some people, including potential clients, think "just because we are HIV positive or have AIDS, we can't be effective," said one employee. "The can't rise above their ignorance."

Lammers is unswayed. "With major projects already completed," he said, "we have proven that we can deliver quality, results and value."

## THE ACUPUNCTURE FILE

by Sally McMullen, L.Ac., D.N.B.A.O.

### ACUPUNCTURE & KIDS

Would you think a baby could benefit from acupuncture? "Get serious," you say.

Infant twins with asthma were brought in for acupuncture treatments recently. The mom held one wriggly twin, dad the other. An acupuncturist must be quick working with children.

Needles are in and out before the baby blinks.

Now listen up, those of you who are needle shy. The twins didn't even cry! I'm now known as Speedo McMullen. Treatment included acupuncture, Chinese massage and teaching the parents to massage acu-points at home.

According to Chinese medicine, babies are unique, not just "mini" adults. One of the most important differences between babies and adults is that babies have immature digestive systems. The perfect baby food is mother's milk because it is easy to digest and provides all the needed nutrients. Cow's milk is more like mother's milk than soy milk, so it is the second best.

A baby should not start solid food until his digestive system is ready for it. A baby can't walk until his legs are strong enough. Likewise, don't give a baby solids until she can handle them — around 5-7 months. The first solids should be similar to breast milk in texture (soft and watery). They should be cooked, pureed, and served warm. Watery white rice is a good starter. Cooked carrots might be tried next.

Avoid cabbage, cheese, beans, peanut butter and grains at first. These foods can be difficult to digest (even for adults), or they may cause gas. And babies don't need a lot of variety at each meal. Eating too many different things at once puts a strain on their immature digestive systems.

Each time you add a new food to his diet, do so in a small amount and watch for signs of indigestion.

The reason I stress the importance of a proper diet for a baby is that Chinese medicine believes that just about all children's diseases (under six years of age) begin with indigestion. The child develops a pattern which is called Stagnant Food, the symptoms of which are one or more of the following: colic, indigestion, constipation or diarrhea, gas and vomiting.

Proper diet is the best prevention of children's illnesses.

#### OLDER CHILDREN

A hyperactive 12-year-old also received treatment recently. I do not believe in sedating children just because they are active and full of life. However, if the child feels out of control or feels uncomfortable with his behavior, that is another story. This boy truly felt uncomfortable.

Besides acupuncture, I prescribed Chinese herbs in pill form. His teachers and principal notice a significant behavior change. They say he's calmer and his concentration has improved tremendously. His parents are ecstatic, needless to say. But most important, he is happier.

Children usually respond very quickly to acupuncture.

The beauty of preventive medicine is that the child will often respond quickly with no side effects. The tools I use include shonishin therapy (non-invasive), acupuncture, acupressure and moxibustion.

By learning new techniques and preventive measures, parents can become involved in keeping their children healthy.

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# U.S. PREMIER OF MEXICAN VIDEOS

by Amado Guerra

**T**wo San Francisco locales will host an extensive body of contemporary video work from Mexico exploring alternative uses of the medium. The first of its kind to visit the Bay Area, the collection reveals the diverse facets of one country's cultural dynamism in a broad range of styles, including urban experimental, new documentary, and the more recent self-representational form from rural indigenous communities.

The spectator is transported to the mountains of Oaxaca via a film that goes beyond the documentary, enveloping us in the magic of an indigenous reality. *Logros y Desafios* is the story of a few pueblos as distant from Mexican government as they are near to their divinities; we are shown the daily struggle to maintain a culture and its magnificent music, performed by a large rural "symphony" of sixty musicians ranging in age from nine to seventy years. The villages come together to build a road that will connect them to the state capital, Oaxaca. The road is constructed in large part with traditional tools — practically by hand.

The film often strings together long shots of the mountains, then suddenly focuses up close on the village. We see images from the survival task of harvesting coffee as well as from the inhabitants' spiritual reality, a melange of elements from different indigenous cultures with a few accommodations for Catholicism. At their feast, we see both the

external manifestations of socioeconomic interrelationships and a glimpse of the indigenous soul in its rural simplicity. The surprise ending we leave for the spectator in this film produced entirely by Zapotecs of the united Peoples' Independent Organization in a remote corner of the Sierra de Benito Juarez.

*Challenges and Achievements*, by Crisanto Manzano, is a twenty-eight-minute video made as part of the new wave of self-representational works by Zapotecs. This piece focuses on the community's struggle to buy a new bus, and the project's ultimate fate.

*The Mayordomia of Tanetze*, also by Manzano, shows the rite of passing on the honor and responsibility of the "mayordomia", celebrated by the people of Tanetze to the accompaniment of their self-produced music beneath the lofty gaze of the high sierras. The film shows the traditional offering of candles in a village which preserves the "requio" system, in which social and economic life are organized communally, with spiritual rites performed in collaboration. The participants make sure, Senor Adrian tells us, that the divinity will receive their offering with great joy.

The above videos will be shown January 14 at 7 PM in the McBean Theatre of the Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street, San Francisco.

Videowaves will present *Trueque*, by Gustavo Dominguez, a thirteen-minute video using choreography of both dancers and camera to capture a performance of experimental movement in which twisted, knotted bodies express the mental configurations of grief. *La*



*Tercera Raiz*, filmed in the Costa Chica region between Oaxaca and Guerrero, is a beautifully photographed catalogue of various religious and civic festivals celebrated by Afro-Mexicans, dances that recreate stories and magical beliefs derived from the convergence of three different cultures: Mesoamerican, Spanish and the "third root" — African. *Trueque* and *La Tercera Raiz* will be shown at New College of California, 777 Valencia Street, San Francisco at 8:00 PM on January 15th.

A week later, Cine Accion continues with

four more videos: *Negro Cafe*, by Tito Ramirez; *Estudio Para Cuello*, by Miguel Navarro; *Evil Herb Never Bites*, by Luis Carlos Carerra; and *Tiger Fights*, by Alfredo Portilla and Alberto Becerra. January 22, 8:00 PM, New College.

The program closes with *El Dueño del Pozo*, *El Conejo Que Quería Visitar la Luna*, and *The Last Moon*, by Sergio Munoz. January 30, 2:00 PM, Exploratorium.



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# LEATHER TONGUE LICKS VIDEO BLUES

by Kristy O'Rell

Lisa Muncaster didn't like the declining quality Doc Marten was putting out. The original leather tongues were being quickly replaced by cheaper, vinyl ones since the British boot company treaded into popular American status. As the story goes, the tall and bright-eyed Muncaster decided to open a retail outlet that (er) solely offered Docs with leather tongues. After a brief employment with UPS and completing studies with George Coates Performance Works in New Mexico, Muncaster was eager to open her own business.

The shoe concept didn't last. Instead, Muncaster and a few friends, now living in the Mission, began focusing on a greater need in the neighborhood: where can you rent obscure cult/camp films? Or find a kiosk that sells raunchy comics and a modest selection of 'zines? How about gay and lesbian videos? Hard-to-find international flicks? Obviously, this void needed to be filled.

The idea for Leather Tongue was sparked by a women-owned Santa Monica video-rental outfit wryly named Vidiots. Successfully filling the same need Muncaster was addressing, Vidiot's eight-year span of offering otherwise inaccessible media forms lent inspiration. Muncaster did her research, sought a well-situated storefront, and kept the name of her original concept, Leather Tongue.

Now, four months after Leather Tongue opened its doors on Valencia and 18th (you know, where pet food and kitty litterbox displays have been replaced by day-glo cutouts and hipster psychedelic rock posters), Lisa Muncaster and her 4-person staff found they hit the bullseye.

Emphasizing Leather Tongue is more than a video store that sells magazines, Muncaster pointed to a bizarre collection of books and magazines, local poetry and music (Klub Kommotion's latest compilation is on the

shelf), specially-designed T-shirts and kooky jewelry. Consequently, this amalgam of pop-culture entities have become tokens of revelry for locals. Film fanatics for the bizarre or simply challenging, rejoice! - the place to find What Ain't Supposed To Be Found is under a

found intact. Muncaster later came in and most of our conversation centered on the lost-and-found vehicle than Leather Tongue's retail transitions. Then again, Leather Tongue's charm lies in the fact that the staff, who knows its merchandise, is also a bunch of



(L to R): Tonguesters MICHELLE MYERS, LISA MUNCASTER and ADAM COHEN purple awning.

I visited Leather Tongue about a week prior to Christmas to talk with Muncaster about her new business. Walking in, I caught Muncaster's co-worker/pal Michelle Meyers on the phone trying to locate her motorcycle that had been heisted 2 days earlier. She found it! Less one tire, but nevertheless,

friends making a multi-dimensional business work.

You'd be damned impressed at what Leather Tongue has amassed in what minimal space it fills. Hordes of classics, from Bogart to Welles. Hordes of schlock/shock cinema. Lots of loony propagandist films from the 50s. Even some bitchin' 3-D! And not to forget

everyone's favorite bondage babe, Betty Page.

Jodie Foster is an esteemed icon under Leather Tongue's roof, and you may find pre-pubescent Jodie in "Freaky Friday" to film director Jodie in "Little Man Tate". There are tons of across-the-board comedies, and an immense collection of foreign works. If you take a look at Leather Tongue's movie catalog (which is continually being revised and updated), you can't help but appreciate what these women have created in the Mission. Similar to Haight & Fillmore's "Naked Eye" video/kiosk outlet, Leather Tongue actually offers the inquisitive visitor more for the visit. Rental membership is an incredibly low five dollars and there's always some special deal going on.

"We're really trying to extend our locally-independent film selection," Muncaster explained, "so make sure you mention if filmmakers are interested in working with us, they should stop by."

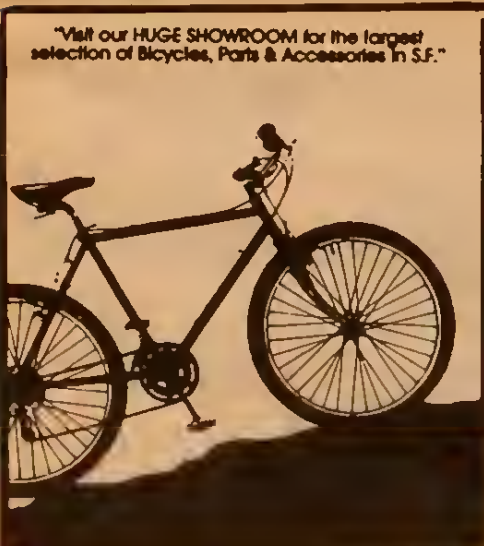
No problem. Local film guy Dan Plotnick is a good example of an artist whose works have been well-received by Leather Tongue's patrons. Better known for his not-to-be-pigeonholed publication

Motobooty, his film "Shotgun" deserves attention. Leather Tongue's participation in promoting local artists is something they deem an important part of their business.

So there you have it. But not all of it. By presstime, I have no doubt several new works were shelved in the "Bosomania" section, or another music rag added for our reading pleasure.

Whatever you find at Leather Tongue, be glad Lisa Muncaster didn't settle on selling footwear.

Leather Tongue Video is located at 714 Valencia Street and is open Monday and Wednesday, 12 noon to 10 PM, Tuesday 4 - 11 PM, Thursday noon - 11 PM, Fridays and Saturdays noon to midnight and Sunday, 2 PM - 11 PM.



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# ROCKIN' AT EL RÍO

by Kristy O'Rell

**WITH: Overwhelming Colorfast, Johnny's Problem, The Genuine Diamelles, Sheephead**

**S**aturday nights at the El Rio have immeasurable moments not to forget. Located next to Caesar's Latin Palace near the Mission/Army intersection, the El Rio has been doing the rock 'n roll thing for some years now. The two-room, open patio set-up basically remains untouched by the Mission's New Bohemia Syndrome or, simply put, trendiness. While the glowing neon rods and Christmas lights illuminate El Rio's humble structure, that's it for artistic design. Unless you include the painted "Please knock", and "Urinals" on the bathroom doors (no locks! Eek!).

For some reason, whoever does decide to visit the El Rio will inevitably fit right in, be it a wrinkled suit, wrinkled skin or a wrinkled mind. Soundman/bartender/booker Frank Gallagher plays obscure video footage of legendary and not-so-legendary rockers of yesteryear on TV screens scattered throughout the club. America! Jethro Tull! The Yardbirds! Way cool. Pre-MTV reveries.

Saturday nights, on the whole, have the motley crew of loud, undisciplined garage bands from San Francisco and beyond, with an occasional "odd" troupe of musicians that pepper a run-of-the-mill billing. Consequently, with the mix of people that show up for cheap drinks and the music, you may sometimes feel you just crashed a big party.

December 19th's four-band eve was no exception. With the Bay Area's new grunge heroes Overwhelming Colorfast heading the bill, along with Johnny's (they're back) Problem, the Genuine Diamelles and Sheephead,

attendance was heavy, high and, for the next day, hung over.

Opening the show, Sheephead made their first public performance away from the secure embrace of their hometown Antioch. Their material was buzzing, fast-forward thrash; on a local level, I would compare them (add more nervous energy) to Hockaloogie and Les is Moore. Far too healthy to be legitimate pun-kers, Sheephead (including Colorfast guitarist Torg Hallin on drums and Two Car Garage founder Burt Winslow on bass) followed the vein with scrappy appeal.

Soon after: "WE ARE THE DIAMELLES AND WE'RE HERE TO STEAL YOUR TOILET PAPER... DOGS AND POOR PEOPLE'S SONGS ARE SONGS WE'RE PROUD OF." One of the best acts I've seen, The Genuine Diamelles displayed their absurdist version of a capella with a casual, almost effortless manner. A group of very dynamic individuals, The Diamelles' distinctiveness should put them on any music industry roster. However, given the hot-stud-on-video mentality of the "marketability" regime, I wasn't in a quandary over The Genuine Diamelles' continuing playing with a bunch of rock bands.

Brilliantly performing great originals like "Pigeons" (a call-to-arms for urbanites who all believe pigeons should be exhumed from the planet), the sweet, '30's jazz-type melody had a memorable chorus I cherish: "Somebody put out some poison/so they won't come 'round anymore." I suggest when you experience this group, request the UnderDog Theme. Magnificent. A true work of talent.

After The Genuine Diamelles' unique offering to the evening's entertainment, lo and behold, Johnny's Problem appeared. By this time, people were in silly, staggering states; a timely arrival for the dearly missed trio that



Steve "Bean" Espaniola of OVERWHELMING COLORFAST

gained notoriety with endearing choruses like "I love you/For your MONEY!" Now that bassist EJ Simpson has returned from Philadelphia and drummer C. T. from Seattle, the Problem is once again a prominent spectacle in the smoky dives of San Francisco. Guitarist John Abella is more responsible for the self-deprecating lyrics Johnny's Problem holds an affinity to; and yes, he's the same guy who does those Thursday night numbers with his Dorkestra at The Chameleon.

Playing their loudest, tightest set I've encountered (I'm a raving-idiot fan, I won't lie), The Problem recruited a three-piece brass section (Slick David Stevick and Angry Bob on saxophones, with Dirty Danny Cao on trumpet).

Past midnight, we finally had Overwhelming Colorfast's sonic feedback. Their first

show upon returning from a tour with The Ramones, guitarist/lead vocalist Bob Reed, his drummer brother Dan, bassist Steve "Bean" Espaniola and young Torg have all managed to keep their genuinity towards their music and their appreciation for their fans. You may still expect to see them at the small holes, as well as The Warfield.

Overwhelming Colorfast shouldn't be pigeonholed with the now-simmering Grunge Sound. The lyrics have more Beatles' influence than Afghan Whigs. While new material was sparse, we did hear Dan (!) sing "The Day the Circus Came To Town", hot off the Colorfast griddle. Besides, they did "Arrows"; that was all I needed.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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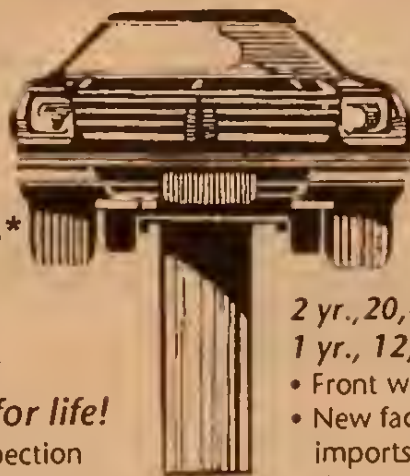
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## ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

### MANDINGA MUSIC PART I



Many centuries ago the Mandinga Empire, centered in what is today Mali, stretched over a vast territory that includes much of the former French West Africa. The many legends and rich family histories we know come from the jali, the hereditary musicians who as "living libraries" are the keepers of custom and tradition. The most common family names of this caste of musicians are Kouyate, Diabate, Suso, Camara and Kante/Konte. From a young age they learn to memorize and recite texts as well as learning to play music.

The main instruments of the jali are the kora, a plucked instrument of 21 strings attached to a long wooden staff fixed to a large gourd or calabash bowl (which is at least 400 years old) and the balafon, a wooden xylophone with resonating gourds under the keys played with sticks or mallets.

The jali plays and sings or is accompanied by a female singer, usually his wife or jali muso. Virtuosity is not enough to make him famous - he must be able to improvise to the audience and occasion and create his own style.

The jali was most important to the rulers, for they sing his praises and of his nobility while also communicating his messages to the people and sending messages back to the rulers. Even today the jali must be present at all major events such as birth, death and marriage to ensure the proper spiritual atmosphere. While they are often held in high esteem and their subtle powers can be great they are not part of the nobility or ruling elite.

A superb recording of kora master Toumani Diabate entitled *Kaira* is readily available and Kora melodies from the Gambia by Alahji Bai Konte is now on C.D. Perhaps the most exquisite modern jali recording is *Yosimika* by Jali Musa Jawara featuring kora, balafon and an ecstatic female vocal duo. Also, there is a three volume anthology, on C.D., of Mandinga balafon as performed by the Master El Hadj Djeli Sory Kouyate.

You can hear the whole range of Mandin-

ga music on the C.D. of Les Ballets Africains from Guinee, the first national ballet company in Africa. And, for a taste of powerful percussion, listen to the djembe drumming on *Wasolon* by Mamady Keita and Sewa Kan.

Modern Mandinga music remains rooted in traditional melodies and rhythms, if not traditional instruments, but it also incorporates elements from Cuban and African American music. Throughout the fifties, the only foreign dance music readily available was Cuban and records were pressed and available in urban areas; moreover, Cuban cruise ships sailed into ports in West Africa with rumba orchestras who played concerts to enthusiastic crowds in the dance halls. At the time, everyone wanted to hear rumba, so musicians played rumba, adding horns to their bands, and playing congas and the clave.

"Afro-Cuban music is still, for many Africans, the paragon of all good dancing music," says Wolfgang Bender in his thorough, anecdotal book *Sweet Mother: Modern African Music*.

More than any other band, Bembeya Jazz is credited with modernising Mandinga music and taking it outside to other African countries. Founded in 1961 in Guinee, they were the first popular African national orchestra. They blended the folkloric music with the African rumba style orchestra. They played free shows (as they were supported by the socialist government) all over Africa and represented Africa at the Tri-Continental festival in Cuba in 1965.

Their charismatic leader/singer/composer/showman Aboudacar Camara became a living legend. When he died tragically in an auto accident in 1973 in Dakar, Senegal, he was given a state funeral with 10,000 mourners in attendance in the capital of Conakry, which was closed down, and processions were held all over West Africa and Zaire.

Mandinga music is on its way to reaching the world as it did in the 80s with Salif Keita and Mory Kante.

Next month - part II: the electro-griot.

# ULTRAVIOLENCE AT THE ROXIE



by Victor Miller

If you've collected all the serial killer cards, rented "Henry, Portrait of a Serial Killer" so often that you're getting funny looks from the video store people but still feel you're missing a touch of depravity in your life, catch the S.F. premiere of "Man Bites Dog" at the Roxie this month.

A fake documentary of the morbid merriment that ensues when a documentary film crew follows a professional hit man in the course of 24 not-for-the-squeamish acts of homicide. Produced for under \$600,000 by Remy Belvaux, Andre Bonzel and Benoit Poelvoorde, "Man Bites Dog" won 1992's Critics' Award at the Cannes Film Festival

and the Metro Media Award at the Toronto film festival.

This Belgian film traces the seduction of the film crew (played by Bonzel and Belvaux) by the homicidal charms of Ben (Poelvoorde) to the point of their joining in on a gang rape/disembowling. The Toronto Star called "Man Bites Dog": "Brutally funny, disturbingly violent and intelligent enough to comment on societal obsession with death and verite programming."

In French with English subtitles, "Man Bites Dog" has been purchased for distribution in 29 countries and promises to be the blackest of black comedies in years. It opens at 16th & Valencia on Friday, Jan. 15th, call 863-1087 for times.



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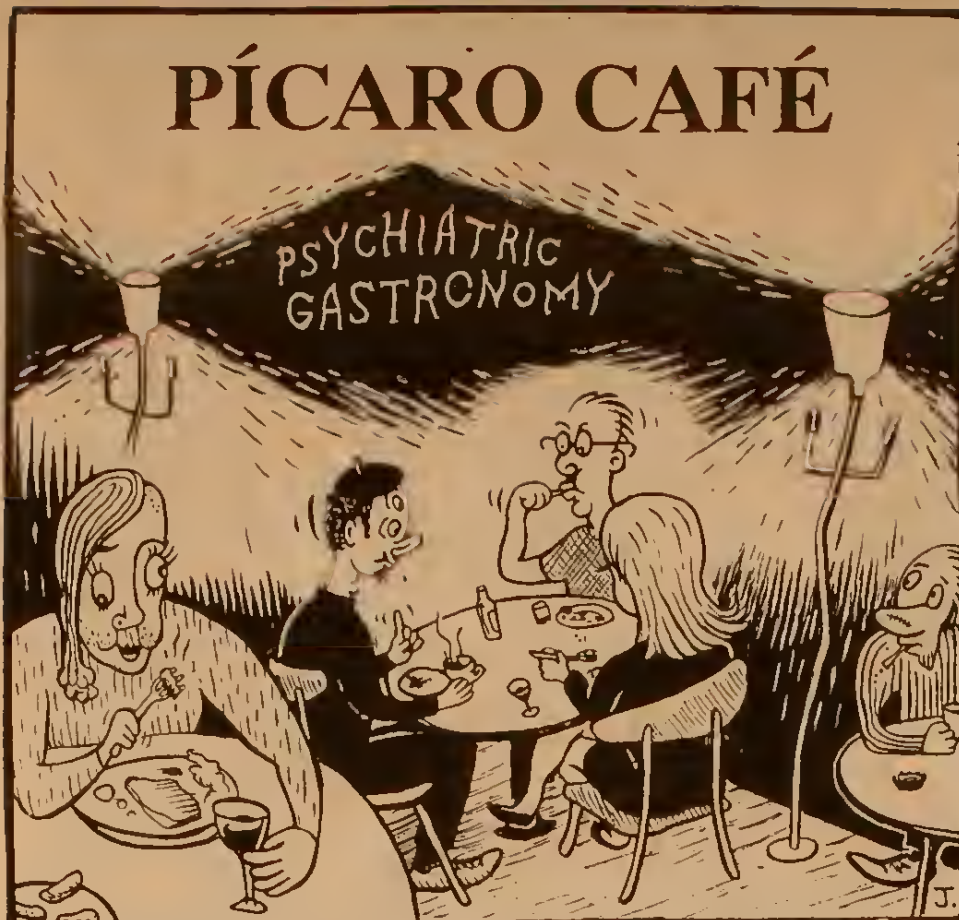
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# MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

**Marsh on the Run!** - Please note, some listing this month may be confusing. The Marsh, a performance venue that started in back of Cafe Beano is sort of moving... they'll be producing in both their old (968) and new (1062) spaces on Valencia. So if you hear about a performance and it's not there go a block up (or down) or call 641-0235 to sort it all out.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

**New Year's Eve Blow-out** - at Blondies' Bar and No Grill, 540 Valencia between 16th & 17th. Or strut your stuff at...

Cesar's Latin Palace: international artists from 9 PM to 6 AM, \$20, 3140 Mission (648-6611).

Chameleon: John Abella and his Dorkestra, 853 Valencia, 821-1891.

Josie's Cabaret: laff away the old with Marga Gomez and Mark Davis at 3583 16th, \$12, 861-7933.

Orpheum Theatre: Miss Sandra Bernhard to you; two shows, \$25 and \$40, 1192 Market.

Paradise Lounge: Bud E. Luv doing Diamond, Vinton, Newton - all your Vegas faves, 308 11th at Folsom, \$20, 861-6906.

Raves! Raves! Raves!: at 650 Townsend, 101 Kansas, and the Exotic Erotic Ball at 8th & Brannan, all in the abandoned warehouse district and they probably all have smart bars!!! Details on the big goofy posters everywhere except 16th Street.

Victoria Theatre: resuscitates Randy Hansen as the Jimi Hendrix Experience Experience (don't take the brown XTC!); 9 PM, \$25-30, 2961 16th.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

**Who You Is** - is Laura Conway ("The Lost Gospels of Mary Magdalene") and QR Hand ("Native Tongue") at Elbo Room's "Spoken Word Savages" series. 647 Valencia, 9 PM, \$4-7, 558-8112.

**Wax - or, The Discovery of Television Among the Bees** - David Blair's inspired, maddening, nuclear-power bughouse rant with William Burroughs and the U.S. Air Force at the Roxie through 7th. 16 and Valencia, 863-1087.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

**Poetry Above Paradise** Amy Kashiwahara and Jane '69 at 11th and Folsom, Free, 8 PM.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

**Writing to Reclaim Their Lives** - an evening of readings by local survivors of ritual abuse. "All survivors are invited to share work pertaining to recovery." Old Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia, 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4676.

**Red Dora's Open Mike** - comedians, musicians, performers... women will find the open microphone at 485 14th, 8 PM, \$3-5, 281-0707.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

**When We Move** - Dancers Group with Sloan Calhoun and others at Footwork, 3221 22nd. 8 PM (also 9th), \$3-7.50, 824-5044.

**KQED Living Room Festival** - premiere of a new series of shows by independent film and video makers including Latino film and video promoters Cine Accion. 13 shows through April, check local listings for program or call 553-2459.

**"Drive!"** - barren, existential L.A. movie by Jeffrey (one 'F') Levy for the guys & gals in black sneaks into the Roxie for a week (through 14th). "Converts its limitations into assets," says the critic from the L.A. Times - and it's not even a midnight film! which counts for something at 16th and Valencia.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

**The Hole - Theatre**: Ground Up's odd interpretation of Dostoyevsky's "Notes from Underground"... "...nothing like being trapped in a mouse hole with the mouse man." Through Valentines' Day at the Marsh, 968 Valencia. 8 PM, \$7-12, 641-0235.

**Real and Wannabe Texans** - check into Komotion, still legal as of this listing! Steve Yerkey returns from Austin with a new band including Joe Gore (late of Snakewalk). Van Riff and Sugarditch open. 2779 16th near Folsom, 9 PM, \$4-5, 861-6423.

**Late Night Improv** - The Marsh in association with Rafe Chase osterizes members of Improve Theatre, Theatersports and Pulp Playhouse in improvisations suggested by the audience. Sloppy fun at 1062 Valencia. 10:30 PM (also 16th, 23rd and 30th), \$7, 641-0235.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

**Isadora Classical Dancing** - with Band of Angels, 3435 Army at Valencia #202. 2:30 PM, \$10-20, 587-0730.

**Surrender** - dance and environmental performance at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 8 PM through 16th, \$10-16, 621-7797.

**Kiwi Kapers** - New Zealand poet Victor Veysey comes up from down under to read "That Was Pretty Painless", "Male Stuff" and more. "Once I thought I could crawl out of the ocean, spend some time on land... break this fucking pattern of asking who I am," at Club Chameleon, 853 Valencia, 821-1891.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

**The Monday Night Marsh** - new performance in rotation; January's shows include Lois Barth's "Mr. Myth and His Disciples", Jana Goerlitz' "Mae at the Horseshoe" and Kate Luna's excerpts from "True Kid", 1062 Valencia. 8:30 PM (also 18th and 25th), \$6, 641-0235.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

**The Weaving Project Videos** - footage of the weaving project of the Diné Nation and an update on Big Mountain at Mission Cultural Center (2868 Mission) in conjunction with its exhibition of traditional Navajo carpets. Exhibit all month through 15th. Videos at 7 PM, \$5, 821-1155.

**Berlin Songspiel 1993** - an updating of the cabaret work of Kurt Weill including "hits" like "Surabaya Johnny", "Mack the Knife" and "Alabama Song" interpreted by Jennifer Durand at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 8:30 PM, also 20th and 27th, \$6, 641-0235.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

**Pilot Project** - dance with Maria Basil, Renee Beauvais and others at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th. 8 PM, \$5, 863-9834.

**Uncertain Companions** - a science fiction tale exploring "the outer dimensions of

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lesbian eroticism" read by Robbi Sommers at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4676.

**Little Train** - a play about intergenerational dilemmas among Filipino-Americans opens at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. Produced by Teatro ng Tanan, it is written by Edgar Poma and directed by Victor Maog. \$8-12, 8:30 Thursdays through Saturdays, 4 PM matinees Saturday and Sunday through 31st, 252-7566

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

**Man Bites Dog** - profile of a philosophical Belgian hit man (see article this issue) at the Roxie, 16th and Valencia, 863-1067.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

**Cathleen McCarthy** - dancing at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th. 3 PM (also 17th), 928-0462.

**Temporary Girl** - a multi-media exploration of the darker side of the life of an office temp presented by Lisa Kotin, the darling of Chicago who has been compared to Fanny Brice and Lucille Ball. At the Marsh (1062 Valencia, probably) through February 28th. 8:30 PM, \$7-12, 641-0235.

**Speculative Histories** - maniac curator, conspiracy theorist and retired Air Force Col. Craig Baldwin appears in person to present his award winning "Tribulation 99: Alien Anomalies Under America" and defend himself against his many detractors at Komotion, 2779 16th Street. Plus "O No Coronado!" and more at 8 and 10 PM, \$4/5 (half price for alien invaders with valid passports from dying world), 861-6423.

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

**Shelter** - staged reading of the play by Caridad Svich at ACT, 450 Geary, moving to the Mission Cultural Center 18th, 8:30 PM. \$3, 771-0654, presented by Latin American Theater Artists

**Medusa Broadsheet Party** - featuring Jackie Weltman at Poetry Above Paradise, 11th and Folsom, 8 PM, 861-6906.

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

**El Plan Infinito** - reading by Chilean novelist, journalist and dramatist Isabel Allende, presented by Old Wives' Tales off-site at UCSF Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 7 PM, \$5-10, 821-4676.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

**Coming Out in Russia** - slide show and reading with Sonja Franeta at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4676.

**The Beats Go On!** - the Zsa Zsa of North Beach, Ruth Weiss, slaps around a few cops (or are they Lenny Bruce impersonators in cop suits?) and reads various selections from 44 years of American peregrinations at Dogeared Books, 1173 Valencia. Bassist Doug O'Connor and trumpeter Cowboy Noyd pitch in. 8 PM, \$2, 641-8403.

**Fellow Travelers Performance Group** - performs Tanztheatre at Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd 8:30 PM (through 30th), \$10, 824-5044

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

**Computer Animation and Video Manipulations** - Illi-tech mayhem strikes Komotion (2779 16th near Folsom) when Max Headroom's disreputable cybercelebrity nephew Steve Headroom hosts a bunch of local and alien artists including (to his probable discredit) Richard Gaikowski. Guest hackers will watch animation with the rest of you and cap off the nite by breaking into B of A's net and diverting the assets of the Boy

Scouts to the DuBois Club. 2 shows, 8:30 and 10:30, \$4-5, 861-6423.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

**Welcome to the Sociopathic Pleasure Dome** - an assortment of mutated perspectives including "Hamlet Machine" (birth, sex & killing) and a dark pagan assemblage of music with ex-psyche TV repairman Monte Cazzaza at Komotion, 16th & Folsom. 8 PM, \$5-10 slithering scale, fax: 431-6523.

**Flying Under Dance & Music Company** - bring their ropes to New College Theatre, 777 Valencia through 30th. "Trapeze skills are pitted against the risk of falling through the protective network." 8:30 PM, \$8, 863-9211.

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

**Clair Blotter** - Poetry Above Paradise, 11th and Folsom, 861-6906 beginning 8 PM with Gary Glazner.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

**According to her Contours** - reading with local lesbian tomboy poet and Girl Jock columnist Nancy Boutilier at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4676.

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

**Re-tracing Spaces** - Emma Secreto and Phillip Djwa at the San Francisco Dance Theatre, 60 Brady. 8 PM (also 30th), \$7, 788-8701.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

**Local Yokel-a-thon** - showcase of deserving Jung combos including out-on-parole Mourin' Champ, Blood Libel, Tallow and "god knows, maybe somebody from some band you wished you never heard of" with the usual rumors of celebrity drop-ins at Komotion, 2779 16th. 9 PM, bargain for admission... these guys really need light bulbs and toilet paper.

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

**Tribute to Doris Fish** - read by David West at Poetry Above Paradise, 301 11th Street with Brian Good. Free!, 8PM, 861-6906.

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# VISTA

FROM TREE SITTING IN OREGON  
TO WINDOW SITTING ON VALENCIA  
STREET

by Al Rose

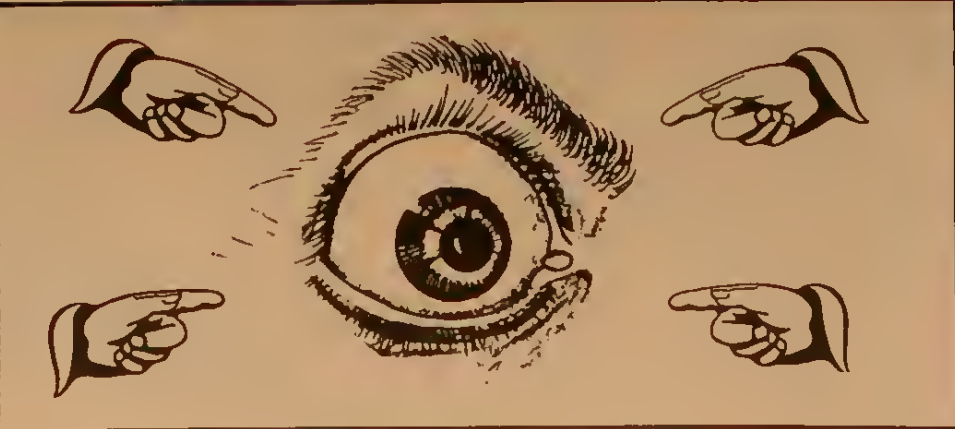
Consider this: being on the very tip top of a very tall, of the tallest trees, in a forest — with trees falling all around you, and the shrill sounds of many chain saws screaming through your every thought.

Consider this: being in a cafe on Valencia Street, watching all the pretty workers getting their morning cup of coffee. People are picture-perfect-pretty. People say "pardon me" when they walk by you. In a world of nice, you only meet nicer people who talk in pleasing tones.

So — I ask you: where would you rather be? sitting up in a tree (they call it 'tree sitting' in Oregon), or! — sitting in a cafe window on Valencia Street?

Do men watch beautiful women their entire lifetime? Yes.

In a world overwhelmed by no's... this is one 'yes' you can accept without researching. You need no university studies to know most men study beautiful women as long as they



are able — meaning: until they become brain dead, if not dead DEAD! (or dead between their legs?)

I know this fashion photographer who has seen most of the beautiful women in the world, at one time or another — and he claims that the most beautiful women he has ever seen are in San Francisco, in an area that's called The Mission.

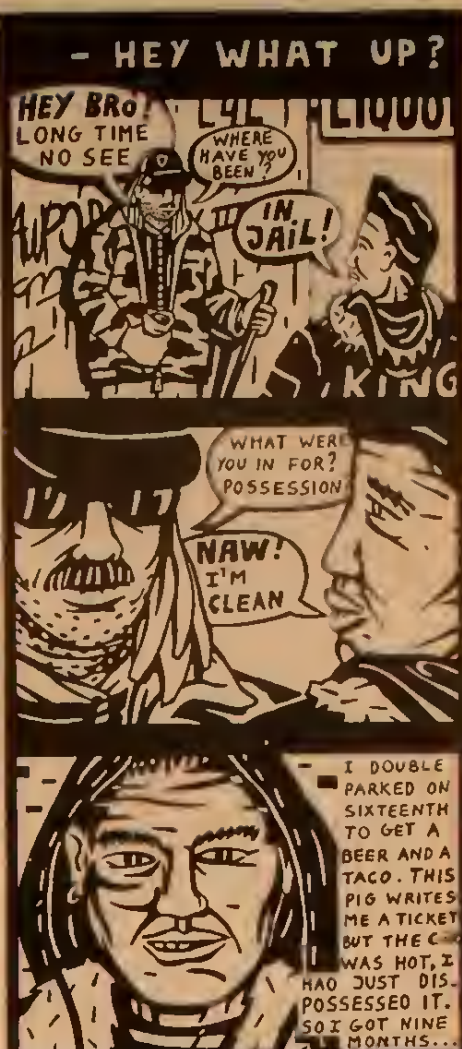
The reason for this statement is the ethnic mix that you see only in the Mission District. The Mission District ladies are not all white, all black, all yellow/brown/red whatever? They are all of the above - and MORE! - much, much, more.

There are no Outsiders in the Mission, we all belong here and we all get along with each other.

... and from a 'window that has a view' thinking about tree sitting in Oregon — tall things keep falling all around me: the tallest of tall dreams keep falling... a dream where an ugly man can be loved by a beautiful Mission District lady. Impossible? Maybe? And maybe not... not if you are a professional window watcher, who keeps seeing the things that dreams are made of: the most beautiful women in the world (or California): the Mission District ladies.

Happy New Year(s)...

To report your tales of the bizarre and weird to Al Rose direct call 922-5854.



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# DEADBEATISM UBER ALLES!

As the red white and blue bunting flaps festively in the Washington breeze, as we inaugurate a brand new President, let's examine (from an Urban Deadbeat point of view) some of the problems facing this new administration.

1) CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT. Primate hands destined for climbing trees have long forgotten how. People start milling aimlessly in circles, circulating an unpleasant primate odor, wringing their opposable thumbs because they miss the clink-clank of the shackles which defined their hands as "useful" (ah, but to whom?). "Please boss-man don't walk away, we got our minds right but we don't got nothing for to do with our hands no more; no rocks to break, no bales to lift, no barges to tote — and the buttons we're allowed to push don't satisfy, what with the Fall television season being such a disappointment."

Idle hands feel weightless, remote, missing their chains. Untethered bodies of the unemployed grow insubstantial, light as Washington balloons, or empty bellies. "Oh ye Powers, boss-men, chain us! Give us back our manacles and anchor them securely to the wheel, the grindstone and the clock! Don't leave us floating in statistical limbo! Don't pay us with an empty plate! Chains taught us not to kill for our suppers, now ye Powers have an obligation to keep us chained, yoked,

tethered and employed! Keep us happy, keep us harmless! Keep us!" In the meantime, though, there's always...

2) SUBSTANCE ABUSE. He lights another cigarette, flicking from channel to channel... wasn't that show about lions supposed to be on tonight? He wades through laugh tracks, situations more or less adult, comedic, but no lions. Yet another disappointing evening settles over the urban veldt, a dead sky the color of an oozing slug. The last few leaves fall dead and brittle from the money tree; he rakes them up with implements of boredom, buys a bag of something kind or cruel. Maybe he'll be a lion himself tonight, after a couple cans of warm malt liquor ("IT'S THE POWER!")... aimlessly from chain to channel, lose the concrete track... in primate hands... an odor of opposable self pity: "Oh ye Powers, fill my belly, my balloons, my lungs with smoke!" Deprived, depraved, he rises to the ceiling high on void tomorrows, laugh tracks falling sad and brittle from a dead grey screen as clock hands trace a disappointment. Chemicals erase his knowledge of the grindstone just to chain him to another plate.

From my own vantage on the ceiling, I reflect that I have been an underemployed pot-smoking sot for most of what passes as my adult life. Does that mean I want President Clinton to give me a job? Hell, no! I'm one of those specimens who are underemployed



by choice — more time to write, if you can call this writing. Well, my lack of self-discipline is my own problem; I don't want a federal program to "help" me. I don't blame the government; I figure we are all our own administration, more or less. But some of these cracked souls I see haunting the street, seems like they really do need a treatment program, some kind of program to keep them from a life of...

3) CRIME. "What do you expect when you don't give people a stake in the civilization?" Bang Bang, you're dead. A twenty dollar bill floats to the sidewalk in extreme

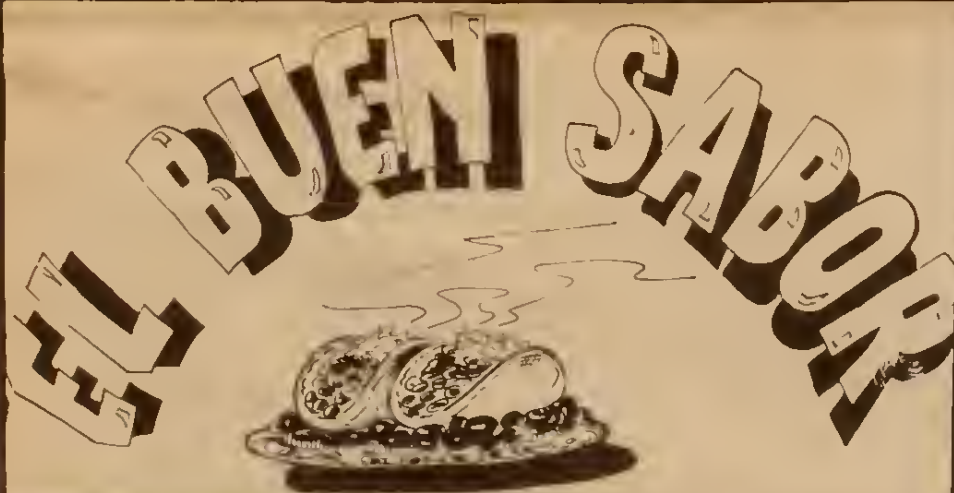
slow motion. Bunting flaps red white and blue. Two murders within two blocks of my house last month: a concrete anger equalizing the urban veldt, if you can call this living. (Spirits speaking through the medium of eutyp say: Hell taught your children situations void their bodies; IT'S THE POWER passes for a lion's anger. Money hands contribute to a bleeding odor of adult statistics just to show how primate chemicals erase your choice.)

I wish Bill luck. As for me, I blew my chance of ever becoming President: I inhaled just once, during the Carter administration and I'm still holding my breath.

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